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Monday, 09 February 2009, 14:53

S E C R E T ASMARA 000047

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/EX AND AF/E

EO 12958 DECL: 02/02/2019

TAGS PREL, PTER, ECON, ER

SUBJECT: AN ERITREAN OVERTURE TO THE UNITED STATES

REF: ASMARA 35

Classified By: Ambassador Ronald K. McMullen for reason 1.4(d)

1. (C) SUMMARY: Senior Eritrean officials in recent weeks have signaled their interest in re-engaging with the United States in areas of mutual

2. (C) A PICNIC WITH THE "AMERICAN MAFIA"

Members of Eritrea's "American Mafia," senior party and government officials who speak fluent English and have lived in the United States, have

3. (C) THE DEFENSE MINISTER CELEBRATES GROUNDHOG DAY

Defense Minister Sebhat Efreem attended a reception at the ambassador's residence on February 2. This was the first Post invitation General Sebhat

4. (C) TOUGH TALK ON SUPPORTING TERRORISM

Despite the clear signals by party and government officials of their interest in exploring a less antagonistic bilateral relationship, the ambassador

5. (S) COMMENT

Eritrea's fundamental interest in re-engaging with the United States is to promote a "balanced" U.S. approach to its border dispute with Ethiopia

MCMULLEN